



Ambassador Jeffrey L. Bleich – Minister's Award for Achievement in Defense Science

**Remarks by Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich
On the Occasion of the Minister's Award
for Achievement in Defense Science
at Parliament House, Canberra**

(Remarks as prepared for delivery – March 11, 2010)

It is a real honor to be invited to join my distinguished Australian friends as we recognize Dr. Gordon Frazer's outstanding contribution to Australia's defense capability, and by extension to all of our security. We congratulate Dr. Frazer, and his apparently very patient and understanding family here. To you all, I bring the thanks of America. Because although this award is meant to focus on scientific contributions to "Australia's defense," Dr. Frazer's leadership in advancing over-the-horizon radar technology has enhanced both Australian and American ability to support our mutual national security interests.

It is no exaggeration to say that the United States recognizes Australia, and in particular the Defence Science and Technology Organisation, as the world leader in over-the-horizon radar technology. This leadership has been earned through a long-term commitment over the past 40 years, and despite setbacks and doubts. You have advanced despite it all because of your dedication to collaboration and openness, and to sustained, objective scientific rigor and technical analysis. Dr. Frazer's work embodies all of these qualities and America is fortunate to have this world-renowned expert and leader as a partner in furthering this technology.

In talking to those who have worked with Dr. Frazer, they all describe him as an ideal colleague and partner. He is straightforward in his dealings, precise in his arguments, and balanced in his decisions. He recognizes the complexities of our partnership and is protective of both Australian and American interests. All this – plus a great sense of humor! Gordon, you never would have made it as a lawyer.

Through your leadership, OTHR has become an important component of Australia's defense system, providing critical early warning surveillance. US and Australian researchers have been collaborating on this issue for more than twenty years, as you overcame obstacles and accomplished important breakthroughs.

The US partners who had the privilege of working with you, have consistently on the knowledge, experience, and openness of DSTO, its researchers, and its leaders; traits that



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have come from the top. Dr. Frazer, as the Australian national lead on these joint OTHR efforts, has set that tone of scientific rigor and open collaboration.

Today we congratulate you, but we also thank you. Our collaboration pays enormous benefits to our shared security. We continually find new applications and ways in which your research achieves critical strategic purposes. For this, I offer America's deep appreciation for Dr. Frazer's tremendous contributions, as well as hearty congratulations for this well-deserved recognition.